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Letter dated 19 March 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter dated 19 March 2001 from the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, addressed to you with regard to the holding of the third Meeting on Confidence-building Measures between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides in Yalta, Ukraine, on 15 and 16 March 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchinsky**
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 19 March 2001 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

19 March 2001
Kiev

It is my sincere pleasure to have this opportunity to communicate with you on the occasion of the third Meeting on Confidence-building Measures between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides within the framework of the Geneva peace process under the auspices of the United Nations, which took place in Yalta, Ukraine, on 15 and 16 March this year, under the chairmanship of your Special Representative, Mr. Dieter Boden, and which, in my view, proved to be a successful one.

Ukraine took the initiative in holding this Meeting because the international community is interested in seeing the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict settled as soon as possible, and because our country is eager to facilitate this process to the extent possible.

Ukraine has also been guided by its position of principle regarding the need for greater attention to the settlement of the so-called "frozen" conflicts in the post-Soviet arena. That position has repeatedly been emphasized by Ukraine's representatives from the United Nations rostrum, for example, at the meeting of heads of State and Government of members of the Security Council, held on 7 September 2000.

I cannot hide my personal satisfaction that the results of the third Meeting of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides have met our expectations. Its participants demonstrated goodwill, realism and a constructive approach.

The Meeting resulted in the signing of the Yalta Declaration of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides and in the elaboration of the Programme of Action on Confidence-building between the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides.

A good platform has been created for further progress in reaching mutual understanding and accord between the two Sides, and in fostering the Geneva peace process.

The Meeting of the Georgian and Abkhaz Sides, which took place in the territory of Ukraine, was an important event both for its participants and for our country itself. It demonstrated the parties' willingness to pursue the dialogue, but also their high level of confidence in Ukraine, which is determined to continue contributing to United Nations peacemaking efforts.

I hope that the Yalta Meeting has created a favourable atmosphere for the special meeting of the Security Council on the question of settling the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, on 21 March 2001.

I should also like to express my gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia, Mr. Boden, who put a lot of effort into securing the promising results of the Yalta Meeting.

(*Signed*) Leonid **Kuchma**